



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Approved Minutes
Date: August 12, 2014 6:30pm

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair): Present
Diane Bonavita: Unable to attend
Emilie Hauser: Unable to attend
Susan Hereth: Present
Lynn Johnson: Present
Kevin McEvoy (Secty) attended by phone
Casey Schwarz: Unable to attend
Gregg Swanzey: Present
Arthur Zaczekiewicz: Present

I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment: The chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. No Guests present and no public comment.

II. Modifications to the Agenda: None

III. Review and Approval July 2014 Meeting Minutes: Upon motion made by Gregg and seconded by Arthur, the council members present unanimously approved the minutes to the July 8th meeting.

IV. Old Business

a. Natural Resources Inventory/Open Space Plan- Drafting the Scope of Work

- (i) Discussion regarding scope of work (“what”) to be performed resulted in an action item to contact Nava Tabak, Bill Rudge, Tim Weidemann, Jennifer Schwartz, Bob Wills, Conway School of Design for the CAC October 14th meeting with confirm by 9-15.
- (ii) Roles and responsibilities (“who, how”) action items to look at Rhinebeck, Ulster County, Shawangunk, Saugerties
- (iii) Timeline for work (“when”) tabled until scoping.
- (iv) Budget and any RFP tabled until scoping.

b. CAC Retreat- Follow up and review

(i) **CAC Mission:** Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston’s natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters. Upon acclamation, the council members present unanimously approved the Mission as stated in the foregoing herein.

(ii) Short Term and Long Term Goals

- 1. **Longer Term 3-Year Possible Goals & Strategies** :see discussion under IV(a) above
 - a. **Natural Resource Inventory**
 - b. **Open Space Plan**

c. Open Space Index

d. Section 239-y: Qualify for General Municipal Law (GML) Section 239-y status by preparing an open space index but not necessarily seek designation as a review board.

2. Shorter Term Possible Goals & Strategies : The following came out of the retreat:

a. Education and Outreach: Educating the public and decision makers through outreach, advocacy and action to raise the vision and public esteem of the City and to change the culture of the City within the context of showcasing Kingston as a model city should be goal.

b. Collaboration and Partnerships: Fostering collaboration and partnerships through connectivity and adaptive co-management between citizens, government and organizations should be a strategy. Examples could be:

(i) Hudson Landing Open Space: Working in partnership on current projects with open space planning such as Hudson Landing. AVR representatives will present to the Kingston Land Trust board on 8-28 with an open space presentation possible by Kingston Land Trust for the October meeting to be discussed by 9-15. This strategy could result in incorporating current projects into the longer term goals mentioned above.

(ii) Climate Smart Kingston Commission: Developing a working relationship with the new Climate Smart Kingston Commission should be a strategy.

(iii) Conservation Development Guidelines: Guidelines were tabled pending NRI scope.

(iv) Additional follow up: Kingston Planning Board joint mapping session to be held off until Sept.

c. Fall Conference- Planning: Arthur led the discussion mentioning a possible date, time and location of the Fall Conference as Nov. 14, 2014 9am-2pm in the Common Council Chambers and one of the conference rooms at City Hall. From 2-5PM there could be a possible field trip. A possible admission fee was discussed to offset conference costs. The suggested theme to be Kingston as a model city, with a possible keynote by Joy Squires (President, NYS Association of Conservation Commissions) with subject to be best practices. The invite list was suggested as regional with Councils and Boards from DEC Regions 3 (Hudson Valley) & 4 (Capital District) with Mark Lowry at DEC to be sent an invite as well. An action item will be to continue planning throughout September.

V. Reports

a. Communications Working Sub-Committee: At request of Arthur, the council went into executive session from 8:05 to 8:10 PM. No motions, resolutions or action item proposals were presented.

b. EMC Liaison: Emilie submitted a written report as follows: "I attended the EMC meeting in July. Creek Week is Sept 13 to 21 and EMC / Dept of Environment is looking for CACs to provide more events, Steve Noble is giving two kayak tours. <http://ucenvironment.org/ulster-county-creek-week/> I recommend the talk on 9/12: River on Drugs."

"We toured the rain gardens at Dept of the Environment, 17 Pearl Street. I have paper handouts about the newest. You can see the older rain garden on the left side of Dept of Environment and the new one to the left, the perimeter of the parking lot. Also look across the street at the permeable paving at 26 Pearl (gastroenterology office).

Ulster County Legislature is having Public Hearing regarding Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2014 (A Local Law to Establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program In The County Of Ulster), and said Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7:05 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building. Read about the law at:

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/Proposed%20Local%20Law%20No.%206%20of%202014-%20Sustainable%20Energy%20Loan%20Program%20in%20UC.pdf>”

Note EMC is an acronym for Ulster County Environmental Management Council.

c. Planning Board Meeting Liaison: Casey could not attend at the planning board in July. Kevin had reviewed the July minutes of the Kingston Planning Board and reported that the minutes included a public hearing concerning a subdivision of approximately 18 acres regarding 472-498 First Ave and Rear 472-498 (SBL: 48.16-5-13.112) into two lots in the vicinity of the Delaware Forest nearby to the Hudson landing uplands with a house proposed for each subdivided lot. Kevin will review with planning and if warranted prepare comments for the CAC to consider submitting to the Kingston Planning Board on the subdivision proposal as an action item. The minutes also referred to a nearby Central Hudson gas valve installation also on First Avenue on an AVR Hudson Landing parcel. Kevin will review planning files on this an action item as well.

d. Public Safety Meeting Liaison: Kevin attended July 23 and reported on the smart meters discussion and the Catskill Mountain Railroad presentation by Matt Gillis. No motions, resolutions or action item proposals were presented.

VI. Announcements

a. Lower Esopus: The Coalition of Lower Esopus Watershed Communities (CLEC) met on 8-7-14 to discuss comments due at DEC by 8-22-14 on the NYC DEP State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPEDS) permit for Ashokan Reservoir and the Lower Esopus Creek. Kevin will review with Mary McNamara as an action item.

b. Lower Esopus: Separately Kevin discussed possibility of greater cooperation and partnership between CLEC communities and City of Kingston and perhaps Saugerties and Olive leading to discussions concerning an Esopus Creek Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). No motions, resolutions or action item proposals were presented at this time.

c. Champlain Express: Champlain Express Final EIS is now in open comment period. US DOE has invited public and agency input on the Final EIS during the 30-day period, which ends on September 15, 2014. The Final EIS is available on the: Champlain Express (CHPE) Project website: <http://chpexpresseis.org/library.php> and on the US Dept of Energy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <http://energy.gov/nepa/environmental-impact-statements-eis> <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/fl8/EIS-0447-FEIS-Summary-2014.pdf>
No motions, resolutions or action item proposals were presented at this time.

d. Climate Smart Kingston Energy workshop: An Educational Workshop is scheduled for August 14: Get Set & Save Energy Together

[Kingston, NY](#)

[August 14, 2014 at 5:00 pm](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/262281197298799/>

<http://www.gjnyhudsonvalley.net/RUPCO/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Aug-14th-GET-SET-Invite.pdf><http://www.gjnyhudsonvalley.net/RUPCO/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Aug-14th-GET-SET-Invite.pdf>

Green Team members from RUPCO Inc. (formerly Rural Ulster Preservation Company) , Courtney Strong and the Climate Smart Kingston Committee are hosting an educational workshop to explain how to apply for a free or reduced cost comprehensive home energy assessment through New York State Energy

Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Meet local energy advocates and find out how to reduce your carbon footprint, save money and live in a safer, more comfortable home.

VII. Adjournment: Upon motion duly made by Arthur and seconded by Gregg, the Council unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:24PM